

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089376

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM COPENHAGEN DATED 25, 1974 SENT
ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO EC BRUSSELS, NATO, HELSINKI,
USUN NEW YORK, NICOSIA, OSLO, REYKJAVIK, STOCKHOLM IS RE-
PEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1127

E.O. 1165: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR DA CY

SUBJ: DANES MOVING TOWARD WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR UN CYPRUS FORCE

REF: COPENHAGEN 964

SUMMARY. DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN DECISION IN
PRINCIPLE TO WITHDRAW ITS UNFICYP CONTINGENT, BUT
FURTHER COORDINATION WITH PARLIAMENT AND OTHER NORDICS
WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OVE GULDBERG USED HIS
VISIT TO NEW YORK LAST WEEK FOR SPECIAL UNGA TO BROACH
WITH SYG WALDHEIM POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF DANISH
PERSONNEL IN UN CYPRUS FORCE (UNFICYP). SYG
REPORTEDLY PRAISED CONTRIBUTION DANISH FORCES HAD MADE
TO PEACE-KEEPING OPERATION IN CYPRUS OVER PAST TEN
YEARS AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR DANISH WISH TO
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WITHDRAW ITS REMAINING TWO HUNDRED MEN.

2. MFA DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR, BIERRING, TOLD ACTING DCM APRIL 25 THAT PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL DID NOT SIGNIFY ANY LESSENING OF DANISH INTEREST IN UN PEACE-KEEPING GOALS AND WOULD NOT MEAN REDUCTION IN STAND-BY UN BATTALION BEING MAINTAINED BY NORDICS ON JOINT BASIS. BIERRING SAID, HOWEVER, THAT PARLIAMENT'S FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR REDUCTION OF DANISH PRESENCE ON CYPRUS AND, BECAUSE OF NEED FOR BUDGETARY STRINGENCY TO COPE WITH NATION'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS GREAT PRESSURE TO PARE EXPENSES WHENEVER POSSIBLE. ANNUAL COST FOR DANISH ELEMENT OF UNFICYP IS ABOUT 150 MILLION KRONER (25 MILLION US DOLLARS) AND, ALTHOUGH DANES ARE REIMBURSED IN THEORY FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THAT SUM, REPLACEMENT IS SLOW AND UNCERTAIN. MOREOVER, THEIR OWN CASH CONTRIBUTION TO UNFICYP IS SOURCE OF PART OF REIMBURSEMENT. BIERRING NOTED THAT DANES WERE CONVINCED, IN ADDITION, THAT CONTENDING PARTIES ON CYPRUS WERE USING UNFICYP AS A "PILLOW" INSTEAD OF WORKING ACTIVELY TO REDUCE INTER-COMMUNAL TENSION. DANISH WITHDRAWAL WOULD, THEY HOPE, MOTIVATE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS TO FOCUS MORE SERIOUSLY ON RESOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS.

3. DANISH GOVERNMENT, ON APRIL 23, MADE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO SEEK WITHDRAWAL OF ITS FORCES ON CYPRUS. BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT'S MINORITY STATUS, HOWEVER, IT MUST SECURE ACQUIESCENCE OF OTHER PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WHO ARE LARGEST GROUP IN PARLIAMENT. AS K.B. ANDERSEN, THE SOCDEM FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN, AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY, THERE MAY BE SOME DELAY IN OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY BACKING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL. DANES ALSO WISH TO COORDINATE MORE CLOSELY WITH OTHER NORDICS, ESPECIALLY SWEDEN AND FINLAND, WHO ALSO PARTICIPATE IN UNFICYP. MATTER WAS RAISED AT LAST MEETING OF NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS (COPENHAGEN 964) BUT NOT FULLY RESOLVED. TIMING AND MODALITIES OF WITHDRAWAL ARE STILL NOT DECIDED, BUT BARRING STRONG OBJECTIONS FROM SOME QUARTER, DANES PLAN TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES

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AS SOON AS THIS CAN CONVENIENTLY BE DONE.
CROWE UNQUOTE RUSH

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